Challenge Team
December 8th, 2009
7:00 am – 8:30am
Mountain View Police Department
1000 Villa Street, Mountain View

The Challenge Team meets the second Thursday of each month at the Mountain View Police Department at 1000 Villa Street Mountain View. The Challenge Team of Mountain View-Los Altos-Los Altos Hills is a community group that meets each month to discuss the challenges facing youth and families in our community. Leaders from the private & public sector, educational, judicial, health care and faith based groups look for creative and compassionate methods to bring positive influences into the lives of youth and to guide them away from the damaging influences of gangs and drugs.

Next Meeting Thursday, January 14th, 2009.
Preliminary agenda for January Meeting

- Welcome
- Special Announcements
- Informational presentation
- Gang Task Force Report
- Community Announcements
- Contact Gay Krause, "Gay Krause" <krausegay@fhda.edu>or Kathi Lilga "Kathi Lilga" klilga@mvwsd.k12.ca.us if you would like to add a topic to the agenda

Report from the December 10th, 2009 Meeting

Welcome: Gay Krause, Chair of the Challenge Team, welcomed attendees to our December meeting of the 2009-2010 school year.

CHAC-New Outlooks Program – Ursula Vogelsang, Director.
The New Outlooks Program is an after-school substance abuse program for adolescents. Waiting to hear back from Ursula with answers to my questions.

Challenge Team Bike Ride/web page update
Trenton Hill has updated the Challenge Team website with information on the 2010 Challenge Bicycle Ride planned for 2010. The event which is planned for Sunday, May 2nd, 2010 in the Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Sunnyvale communities raises awareness to the needs of the youth of our community. All are encouraged to participate in the event. More information, including registration will be available in January on the event website, www.challengebicycleride.org. Please print and share the SAVE THE DATE flyer with your friends, neighbors and colleagues.

Cops and Gobblers Report – Bruce Barsi
More than 150 Mountain View community members gathered Sunday November 22nd to organize and deliver baskets filled with food, vouchers for turkeys and stuffed animals —

all destined for families in need as a part of the annual "Cops and Gobblers" event. The baskets were delivered to 270 local families. This 13-year old event, sponsored by the MV police officers, received funding this year from the Challenge Team ($1000), Mountain View Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs and MVHS PTSA.

Ron Cooper and his "Cops that Care" MVPD helpers are now gearing up to give away toys to needy Mountain View children. It is expected that up to 1700 local children will come by the MV Police Department on Saturday December 19th to select a gift or toy. Donations before that time can be brought directly to the Police Department at 1000 Villa St. Checks should be made out to the Mountain View Police Activities League (MVPAL), with "Cops that Care" indicated in the comment section. The Challenge Team has donated $1000 in support of this program.

MV Gang Task Force Update: Nicole Guire (MVPD/CHAC-Healthy Youth Services) kicked off the update stating that they continue to visit families in their homes to discuss issues of gangs. A class on teen alcoholism is offered to middle school students. They are working with leaders of the Recreation Department on teen suicide prevention. The "Teen Talk" sessions address life skills, relationships. Officer Cooper took 34 kids to a Warriors Game that proved very successful. Mike Ecdao (MVPD), reported that during the last month, there are two folks in custody, but no major incidents. The police officers are driving around the MVHS, AVHS and Terrabella when schools get out just to let the students know they are close by.

Silicon Valley Community Foundation Update – Emmett Carson, CEO
Mark Johnson, who is a YMCA Board member and a member of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation Council Advisors, helped to secure Emmett Carson for the Challenge Team meeting. Emmett gave highlights of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF): Formed early 2007 by the merger of the Community Foundation Silicon Valley Foundation and Peninsula Community Foundation; its focus is to serve Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. Based on its over 1500 Donor Funds, it holds $1.7B in assets. In 2008 it made $234M in gifts of which $12M were part of the unrestricted endowment which the SVCF Board directs. The SVCF grant making strategies which were developed though rigorous community input and research include: community opportunity fund, economic security, education, immigrant integration and regional planning. The Education Initiative focuses on high school Algebra success. Work is underway to provide legal help to immigrants and to combat predatory payday lending tactics. Support for land use involves helping communities form 10-20-30-year plans to meet transportation and other community needs. During the last year as part of the community opportunity initiative, the SVCF and matching organizations gave over $5M for "safety net" services (food and shelter) for low income families.

Maurice Ghysels thanked Emmett Carson for the SVCF's support of the MVWSD school district. The support from SVCF has allowed MVWSD to improve its math instructional programs and hold summer math intervention programs in partnership with Foothill College. Based on these programs the Graham Middle School has increased the number of algebra sections from two to five.

Need for Comprehensive Census:
Comments on the need to have all residents be part of the US Census. Federal funding to civic organizations is based on census data. All local residents whether they are a US citizen or not, should be included in the census.

Announcements: (not a complete list. Please provide information on your event to Trenton Hill so that it can be posted on the Challenge Team website challengeteam.org)

Animal-Assisted Happiness – Vicki Amon-Higa
Ms Amon-Higa discuss the Animal Assisted Happiness program that brings children with special needs in contact with farm and companion animals, producing therapeutic results for the children. Ms. Amon-Higa's organization is looking for several acres of land in the Mountain View – Los Altos area for their animal farm.

Mountain View Public Library – Karin Bricker
The MV Library has expanded its after school homework help with additional tutors. They now offer an evening homework assistance sessions.

Nancy Lippe of the Los Altos Community Foundation, is creating a "Non-Profit Yellow Pages". She encourages local non-profits to participate by sending information on their organization.

Judy Hanneman reported that the MVLAHSD is exploring community support for a Bond measure that may be on the June 2010 ballot. The MVLAHSD projects an increase of 1000 students over the next ten years and needs to facilities to support the growth. If the bond is shown as a continuation of the current bond (no increase in payments), then 55% rather than 67% of the vote is needed to pass.

Kim Castro reminded the Challenge Team of the new "Ask Mountain View" link on the Mountain View home page. Visit http://www.ci.mtnview.ca.us/

The FLY (Facilitating Leadership in Youth) showcase breakfast last week had over 400 attendees at the Santa Clara Convention Center.

Upcoming Challenge Team Meetings
Jan. 14, 2009
Feb. 11, 2009
March 11, 2009
April 8, 2009
May 13, 2009 Champions for Youth Breakfast
June 10, 2009